



Congressman Lee M. Zeldin

First Congressional District of New York

November 24, 2021

Secretary Antony J. Blinken
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Acting Assistant Secretary Naz Durakoğlu
U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken and Acting Assistant Secretary Durakoglu,

I write today to follow up on my August 27, 2021 letter requesting a written response and meeting with the appropriate State Department official to discuss in depth and review intel describing “significant corruption” as it relates to the process the Department of State used to sanction Sali Berisha.

It’s been five months since I made my original request, which is substantially more than enough time to adequately respond. This is now my third request for additional information since raising the issue of sanctioning Sali Berisha with Secretary Blinken during the June 7, 2021 House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing. Congress plays an important oversight role for the executive branch including the Department of State, yet my office has received alarmingly few details in response to my inquiries. It is unacceptable and suspicious that the Department of State has not sufficiently fulfilled this request for additional information in a timely manner and has instead chosen to slow-walk a Congressional request for transparency.

Given the gravity of your decision, I implore you to give this matter the attention it deserves and look forward to your immediate reply.

Sincerely,

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress